



West Tennessee Veterans Home, Inc.

"Building for Those Who Served"

P.O. Box 655, Cordova, TN 38088

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A 501 (c) (3) Non-profit Organization

NEWS ADVISORY

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H. L. Durham Foundation Joins Effort to Build a Care Home for Veterans

The effort to launch a general fundraising campaign to obtain local funds needed to build a skilled care home for local veterans received a needed boost from the H.W. Durham Foundation. The \$25,000 grant will go towards technical and training supplies.

"We are elated to receive this first grant from such a fine institution. Through this grant, the Durham Foundation has demonstrated its concern and compassion for our local veterans. We're hoping other foundations, community groups and interested people will consider following Durham's lead since the building of this care home will require broad community support," said Holly Swogger, President and Chairperson of West Tennessee Veterans Home, Inc.

Currently the closest state home for veterans is in Humboldt, Tennessee, nearly 100 miles away. This 140-bed facility currently has 138 veterans on the waiting list. The Executive Director for the State Veterans Homes said that Fayette, Shelby and Tipton counties, with nearly 75,000 veterans, has the largest concentration of veterans in the state. Further, a total of five state veterans' homes could be utilized for this population of veterans.

This is why the time is now. According to Ms. Swogger, most people she talks to are shocked to hear there is no local home for veterans in our community. This is why the local non-profit started as an advocacy group for veterans.

Shelby County Government has already designated \$2 million towards the local contribution. The care home committee members are continuing to visit with government leaders, charity foundations, businesses, churches and community groups to generate awareness and seek donations. So far, the City of Millington and United Housing, Inc., of Memphis have offered potential land sites for consideration.

"There's a huge economic benefit to having a care home located in this area. It will generate construction jobs, and once opened, employees and the vendors that supply the home will contribute a lot to the local economy. That could be in the millions of dollars," added Ms. Swogger.

The West Tennessee Veterans Home non-profit group is comprised of veterans, their relatives and others who support the armed forces. Go to www.veterans-home.com or call Holly Swogger at **(901) 410-0655** for more information.

(End of Advisory)

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